

Application Serial No. 10/808,691
Response dated March 21, 2007
Reply to Office Action of March 13, 2007

REMARKS

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-45 are pending in the application and are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. Specifically, we understand that the Examiner has grouped the claims between Group I, claims 1-9, Group II, claims 10-17, Group III, claims 18-31, and Group IV, claims 19-45. Groups III and IV include an overlap of claims, which cannot be correct. Applicant assumes that Examiner intended to indicate that Group IV includes claims 32-45, rather than 19-45, and this response is based upon that assumption. Group I is directed to a method of plasma cleaning, Group II is directed to a plasma cleaning, Group III is directed to a processing system, and Group IV is directed to another processing system.

By amendment herein, claims 25-27 and 30-31 are canceled from Group III, and claims 38-41 and 44-45 are canceled from group IV. Also by amendment, claim 10 of Group II is amended to specify that the power is applied to the process tube. Thus, in the Group I claims, power is applied to the substrate holder, the substrate holder support or the process tube, and in the Group II claims, power is applied to the process tube. Thus, the Group I and II claims are no longer related as combination/subcombination. Similarly, claim 32 of Group IV is amended to specify that the power is applied to the process tube, and claim 18 of Group III applies power to the electrode, which is the substrate holder, the substrate holder support or the process tube. Thus, the Group III and IV claims are no longer related as combination/subcombination.

Applicants hereby elects Group I, directed to the method, and Group I includes claims 1-9 and should further include claims 10-17 in view of the amendment herein to remove the combination/subcombination relationship.

In view of the foregoing amendments to the claims and remarks and election given herein, Applicants respectfully request examination on the merits. If the Examiner believes any further discussion or election is needed before examination on the merits can proceed, the Examiner is respectfully asked to telephone the undersigned attorney so that the matter may be promptly resolved.

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Applicants are of the opinion that no additional fee is due as a result of this Amendment. If any charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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